



State of Delaware
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation
89 Kings Highway
Dover, Delaware 19901

Council on Greenways & Trails

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Dover Public Library

35 Lookerman Street

Dover, DE 19901

Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions

Diane Wilson, Chairperson, and Sussex County Council Representative, called the meeting to order at 9:30a.m. She invited members and visitors to introduce themselves and identify their group affiliation or agency.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Diane Wilson made a motion to approve the February 7, 2014 minutes. Motion carried.

Recreational Trail Users Updates

a. Hiking - Gary Kirk from Wilmington Trail Club for Council member Wendel Cassel

www.wilmingtontrailclub.org<<http://www.wilmingtontrailclub.org>>

- The 1.7 mile Tri-State Marker Trail project in the White Clay Preserve (PA) is estimated to cost \$20,000; volunteer hours estimated at 1900 hours. Projected to be completed by April 2015 in time for the 250th Anniversary of Mason & Dixon setting the corner stone between Pennsylvania & Maryland (now Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Maryland) on June 18, 1765. To date, one quarter of new trail and four are bridges complete.

- The Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve [PA] has agreed to fund materials for the two Eagle Scout projects, which are the building of two bridges on the trails north loop. Plans are being made to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Mason & Dixon setting the first Marker between Pennsylvania & Maryland (now Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Maryland) on National Trails day, June 6, 2015. On this anniversary the north loop of the Tri-State Marker Trail will be officially opened in PA. At that point the trail will be able to be accessed from Delaware's White Clay Creek State Park from the Nature Center using an existing social trail, or trails in the Carpenter Recreation Area.

- On June 7 - National Trails Days - a joint project with Wilmington Trail Club, Friends of the White Clay Creek State Park, Friends of the White Clay Preserve have planned to work on the southern loop of the trail in preparation for the State Parks staff to assess the proper location for the trail. They will clear underbrush west of the Arc Corner Road in PA and Delaware for about 0.5 miles.

b. Equestrian – Mary Everhart

- Delaware Equine Council (DEC) continues to publish six newsletters a year, available online:

www.delawareequinecouncil. Mary referred to Glen Stubbolo's presentation at the February 7, 2014 Council on Greenways & Trails meeting detailing ways individuals and groups could volunteer in the State Parks and Trails. She said she would add this article to the next Equine Newsletter.

- The Delaware Equine Council has a new meeting location. The new meeting place is at the Harrington Fire Department Conference Room, 20 Clark Street, west of Route 13 and Harrington. Council meets every 3rd Monday evening of every month except June and December.
- Trails – No problems have been reported. She had asked for more information on user fees at the Fish and Wildlife areas. Susan Moerschel will followup with the Division of Fish & Wildlife for information and respond to Mary.
- Mary reported that David Bartoo solicited more input regarding equestrian preferences for the continuation of the Michael Castle Trail along the C&D Canal.

c. Mountain Biking – Jim Ireland - <http://trailspinners.org/>

- Trail Spinners have begun trail maintenance in Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland. His group has completed approximately 600 volunteer hours to date.
- At the next meeting Jim will have a detailed report on the Trail Spinners Volunteer work.

Trails Grants Application – Bob Ehemann

Bob Ehemann thanked the Grant Committee, Gail VanGilder, Jim Ireland, Anthony Aglio, and John Martin, for review and evaluation of the one trail grant request for Council consideration.

The Town of Elsmere submitted a DTF Trail Grant application for \$115,000 for the Elsmere Pedestrian & Bicycle Trail. These funds will provide a 20% match to \$648,000 in federal Transportation Enhancement funds to complete the project. Project construction is expected to begin September 2014 and completed by spring of 2015. The trail will be approximately one mile long, 10 feet wide asphalt. The trail will connect residential communities and two parks. Elsmere is committed to maintain the upkeep of this trail. Jim Ireland said this project is a great addition to the Town of Elsmere by allowing citizens to walk between two parks. The Grant Committee recommended full Council approval of this grant.

After discussion, Diane Wilson asked for a motion to accept and approve the Town of Elsmere grant application as presented and recommended by the Grant Committee. Gail VanGilder made a motion to fund the Town of Elsmere project as proposed. Jim Ireland seconded. Motion passed.

Trail & Pathway Initiative Projects - Staff

At the February 7, 2014 meeting, Council asked for a financial report on the projects managed by Division of Parks & Recreation under the Trails and Pathways initiative with specific expenditures of the Bond Bill funds for trail design and trail construction. Council also asked for additional information on the trail level of service area models. As requested, a report was sent to Council prior to today's meeting.

Susan Moerschel said this portion of the agenda is intended to keep Council informed of the Division's trail projects, costs, projected timelines for design and construction, progress and/or completion. She conveyed that previous Trails & Pathway briefings covered all projects statewide including those from our Division, Division of Fish & Wildlife, DelDOT, towns, and counties funded with by all sources of funds. The format of today's briefing is geared to be more in depth and informative.

In FY2012 the DNREC received its first Bond Bill funds for the Trails and Pathways Initiative. This funding came in two categories. There were \$2 million in Bond Bill funds dedicated to State Park trail projects and \$5 million in Bond Bill funds that was shared by DNREC and DelDOT trail and pathway projects. Today's report will focus only on the allocation and spending of DNREC projects for Fiscal Years 2012, 2013, and 2014. [Report was sent to Council prior to the meeting is an addendum to these meeting minutes.]

Mike Krumrine explained the uses of the listed trails. He said all of the trails are multi-use and most are ADA compliant. Ms. Moerschel presented the breakdown of expenditures; see attachments to these minutes.

As each trail was addressed with the financial information, Mike Krumrine displayed slides of the level of service modeling conducted by the Park Resource Office. Pedestrian and bicycle level of service were highlighted for each of the trail projects. The modeling provides estimates of the population surrounding a

trail project that could easily access a new trail by walking or biking. The innovative level of service modeling is one more tool being used to help prioritize future trail projects. [Report was sent to Council prior to the meeting is an addendum to these meeting minutes.]

As a Kent County representative on the Council, Charlie Emerson asked, why there is more focus on New Castle County and Sussex County and not much on Kent County?

Susan Moerschel explained that there are multiple projects underway in Kent County managed by our counterparts DelDOT. At the Council meeting last fall, staff highlighted three different segments of the Capital City Trail, first segment of which is complete. Phase 2 construction will begin this summer. Trail replacement on Killens Pond Road from the Park entrance to Route 13 is in design. Anthony Aglio explained the progress of trail projects in Kent County and agreed that there are several projects underway.

Susan Moerschel said every month the trail status information like that presented today is sent to the DNREC Secretary and Governor and every quarter a progress report is provided to the Office of Management & Budget.

Diane Wilson thanked Susan and staff for explaining the trails projects. She said this was the best and most informative meeting about trail projects. She said she wishes this topic would be discussed on a regular basis and be added to every Council agenda. She further expressed that she would like the Council on become involved in setting the Division's priorities for trail projects.

Matthew Chesser said this Council certainly has the opportunity to make recommendations.

Brandywine Creek State Park/First State National Monument Trail Plan – David Bartoo

David Bartoo said that in 2014, a Division Trail Team and National Park Service to assess data and trail alignments/routes and discuss potential trail routes on the properties. At this time, the National Park Service, has no capacity to do trail planning. In addition to scoping a future trail network for Brandywine, our staff will make trail route recommendations for Monument lands. There is 36 miles of trails within Brandywine Creek State Park. David presented maps of the current trail system.

Announcements

- Heels & Wheels Summit – March 21, 2014 – Conference was a success and met its goal.
- May is Bike Month. Bike to Work Week is the 12th to 16th
- National Trails Day – June 7, 2014
- Gordons Pond Trail Official Opening – June 18 at Cape Henlopen State Park
- 2014 Council meetings: July 30; December 3
- Gail VanGilder asked why trees were destroyed Gordons Pond Trail to put a parking lot. Matthew Chesser said this parking lot is not just for trails people alone, it is a multi-use parking. Many cultural resources were discovered and staff had to work around areas not to destroy historical artifacts.

Adjourn

Diane Wilson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gail VanGilder made a motion and Peggy Koster seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Meeting Attendance

Appointed Members

Charles Emerson

Mary Everhart

James Ireland

Peggy Koster

John Martin

Gail VanGilder

Diane Wilson

Agency Members

Anthony Aglio, DelDOT

Scott Blaier, DDA

Guests

Gary Kirk, Wilmington Trail Club

Division of Parks and Recreation

Bob Ehemann

Kendall Sommers

Susan Moerschel

Rose Ryödi

Matthew Chesser